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Google rolls out new privacy policy amid howls

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Google rolled out its new privacy policy Thursday allowing the firm to track users across various services to develop targeted advertising, despite sharp criticism from US and European consumer advocacy groups.

See story on pg 7

Tornadoes tear through Midwest, killing at least 12



UNITED STATES, Harrisburg : HARRISBURG, IL : Vehicles and other possessions are scattered after a tornado ripped through a neighborhood in the early morning hours of February, 29, 2012 in Harrisburg, Illinois. According to reports, at least 12 people have died in tornadoes across the Midwest. (AFP)

Aruba stands tall as one of the "Best of the Caribbean for 2012!"

Just recently the SmarterTravel.com website named Aruba one of the best destinations in the Caribbean for the year 2012. SmarterTravel.com is a world renowned website offering travelers credible information about the destination they are headed for their vacation. The website has a list of about 1 million visitors per month. They offer professional advice about the best destinations, airline flights, hotels, etc.

In an article on the website they recommend 10 destinations they consider a must to visit in 2012, and ...you guessed right, Aruba is one of them!

SmarterTravel.com has placed emphasis on the Aruba Fashion Week., "Aruba In Style." Last No-



A shot of Aruba's in Style Fashion Week 2011

vember 2011 Aruba held the "Aruba In Style" project. To our great delight Aruba was named (2011) as ...the most fashion-forward Caribbean Island."

Aruba In Style has been instrumental in the major recognitions received from the fashion world.

We are high on the list in the area of fashion from Miami to New York. The media coverage was big from the international press where names like Getty images were mentioned, and NTN 24, and Ocean Drive, Tele-

visa, New York Daily News and New York Magazine, among others.

The government, which from the start believed in the idea of Aruba In Style, said that this project is definitely something positive for Aruba and that it can help Aruba in the diversification of our tourism markets. Special appreciation is in order for all those who have encouraged Aruba In Style, who contributed in Aruba earning the remarkable title of ...the most fashion-forward Caribbean Island!"



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MIO Aruba announces sponsorship of Palo Marga Racetrack



Juni Croes with Enrick Lopez and Randall Boekhouder

A artful replica of the 1957 Plymouth Fury "Christine" made famous by Stephen King in the book and movie, was the center of attention as

MIO Internet and mobile service providers announced their official sponsorship of Boss Racing, the group that manages Aruba's Palo Marga

Racetrack at the east end of the island.

MIO CEO Juni Croes was pleased to join Boss Racing President Randall Boekhouder



The Morning News' sales representative Yanis strikes a pose in front of MIO's replica of Stephen King's notorious Christine

and general factotum Enrick Lopez for the official announcement of their sponsorship on Wednesday afternoon, February 29, in the front of the Mio offices in the Cayena Mall. "Mio is "in the fast lane" with our continued support of Boss Racing, which began with One Cool Summer Nationals last year and will be taking place again from August 25 to September 1, 2012 " he announced.

MIO provides the Internet service for the Boss Racing website: <http://www.arubaraceway.com>, along with the service that allows fans to instantly access racing results posted real time, along with their Facebook page. MIO has the

newest technology for faster posting, just what is needed for providing up to the moment racing action and results.

MIO offers a variety of systems for phone, laptop and tablet users to create their own hotspot and enjoy guaranteed Internet access from any point on Aruba; they have a number of plans to suit any budget, without deposits or credit checks required, including short-term plans ideal for vacationers. They also have a selection of the latest communication devices to pair with program. For more information, visit their website: <http://mioaruba.com/>.

Rosalie Klein

Drunk driver shuts down Philadelphia airport

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Flights at Philadelphia International Airport were halted for 40 minutes Thursday after a drunk driver drove through a gate into a restricted area and onto a runway.

Police intervened to stop

the driver, identified as Kenneth Richard Mazik, 24, after he crashed through a locked, but unmanned gate.

"It was a locked facility, a secure facility and he rammed his way through there," said police spokes-

woman Jillian Russell.

The jeep was detected by ground radar as it first moved toward one runway then toward a second one before police surrounded it, the spokeswoman said.

The airport was closed while police searched the vehicle for explosives.

The driver was charged with drunk driving and reckless endangerment.

Witnesses told local television channel WPVI the driver seemed to be awaiting the arrival of an airplane before he drove toward the runways. No airplanes were endangered by the vehicle's intrusion, police said.

The FBI and the Transportation Security Administration have opened investigations into the incident.



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Manhole system makes work easier for Utility companies

The infrastructure in the main street is getting a new and modern dimension which will avoid the ugly site of digging up the ground in the future to do repairs or to make adjustments. With this new system the ugly site of removing tiles and digging up the ground in desrepair for weeks will be a thing of the past.

The government's Integral BoAruba Plan has included ways to avoid future ugly sites in the center of the city everytime that the Utility companies have to do repairs.

DOW's Marlon Croes explained that this new system will make work so much easier whenever a business changes destination. For example, if a building which



formerly sold clothing restaurant, there would be no changes and becomes a problem whatsoever. By

means of the large "man-holes" employees of, for example, the gas company can get into the "manhole" and make all the connections for that company to be supplied with gas. Next to the "man-holes" there are lines of pipes from the utility companies going to all businesses.

These "manhole" boxes contain pipe lines for: electricity, water, telephone and gas. The only digging to take place in the future will be at the edge of the premise of the business. They used different pipe lines for each type of utility.

According to Marlon Croes, this system is very modern, although Lago did use a similar system in the past. The government is

using this system for the very first time for the renovations in the main street of downtown Oranjestad. This system would be ideal for the Green Corridor, but they must have the support of all the utility companies for such a system.

This new system has been used extensively throughout the entire length of the main street. In total there are 8 of these "manholes."

This system is definitely going to make maintenance work so much easier. For example, the maintenance of the trees to be planted in the mainstreet, and the musical system to be installed, will all be so much easier to maintain and make adjustments when necessary in the future.

M H

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Kate joins Queen, Camilla for tea -- and dog treats

(AFP)--Prince William's wife Kate joined the queen and mother-in-law Camilla for a tour of upmarket store Fortnum and Mason on Thursday, sampling tea and sweets before taking home some dog biscuits.

The duchess of Cambridge, wearing a blue coat dress by Italian designer Missoni, joined Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles' wife in the trio's first official engagement together at the London shop known as the queen's grocer.

The three women were presented with wicker hampers filled with luxurious items, and Kate burst into giggles when she discovered "hearty treats for happy hounds" in hers -- a gift for her cocker spaniel, Lupo.

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Aruba Certification Program celebrates first 200 graduates



When the current Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, took office, he announced a priority of his would be establishing a process of educating workers in Aruba's tourism industry, along with interested parties,

Henriquez was proud to introduce the first crop of 200 graduates who were awarded their certifications on Wednesday afternoon, February 29, after completing the three-week course, which included classes by six instructors in their various areas of expertise.

Those taking the course expressed it was a revelation, and they learned a great deal, even though they had lived here all their lives. "I never realized that a lot of what I took for granted, about the nature and history in particular, was misinformation," commented on Radisson em-

ployee. His colleagues concurred regarding the necessity of learning the correct information to impart to interested island visitors.

ACP has partnered with Enseñansa pa Empleo, a division of the Department of Education specializing in night courses for working people to improve their skills and facilitate advancement. EpE Director Gregory Koolman was joined by the ACP Public Relations Manager Shouska Kock in awarding the certificates.

Wednesday's ceremony included the unveiling of the official website: www.arubacertificationprogram.com, where individuals can register for the course, costing 95 Aruban florins; businesses can sign up their employees as a group, which costs 80 florins per employee for 5 staff members or more.

The ACP slogan "What is your Commitment?" refers to the concept that each person working within the tourist industry, and actually every resident of Aruba, should think of themselves as goodwill ambassadors for the



principal foundation of the island's economy. Not only business concerns directly involved in tourism are encouraged to take this course, but all islanders, as they are likely to come in contact with vacationers at anytime. The curious visitors who care to learn more about Aruba and understand its people and environment

certainly deserve the commitment of Arubans to be giving factual, accurate information, which may come to a surprise to many residents. A

number of managers proudly watching their staffers receiving their certificates commented on the importance of the program, which they considered has great

value not only in maintaining the quality of Aruba's tourism product, but outside the industry, as well.

Rosalie Klein



in the art of correctly informing visitors as well as welcoming them. The Aruba Certification Program, ACP began last month.

Project Manager Chido

Tourism continues to perform above expectation

Summary of the bulletin for the third quarter of 2011

The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) concludes in its Quarterly Bulletin of the third quarter of 2011 that Aruba remained on the path to recovery as tourism continued to perform above expectation. In the third quarter of 2011, the tourism sector activities improved over the same period of 2010, with total visitors increasing by 17,715 (+8.6 percent) to a total of 224,774 due to a pick-up in all market segments (North America, South America, and Europe). In contrast, the number of cruise passengers who visited Aruba contracted by 2,017 (-11.8 percent), associated with a smaller average passenger capacity of the ships that called at the port of Aruba. On balance, tourism receipts recorded a substantial growth of 9.6 percent.

Furthermore, the Business Perception Survey (BPS) for the third quarter of 2011 indicated that companies continued to maintain a positive outlook on the economy. The level of confidence experienced a slight decline, but responses showed that most firms seemed to be as optimistic about the economy as when surveyed in 2007, i.e., before the economic downturn. In addition to the positive business sentiment, increased imports related to cement and investment goods along with a higher value of the construction permits granted are indicative of the renewed investment activities. Moreover, higher proceeds from the turnover tax (BBO), profit tax, and import duties all pointed to a continuation of the economic recovery.

An unfavorable development has been the steady hike in oil prices in the international markets over the past year, which resulted in raised price levels in the third quarter of 2011 (on average 6.1 percent higher than the level recorded a year earlier). An upward movement in prices was registered in almost all components, most notably in food and non-alcoholic beverages, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, housing, and transport. When the energy and food components are excluded from the total consumer basket, the result shows a quarterly core inflation of 2.0 percent.

The government's financial deficit on a cash-adjusted

basis totaled Afl. 61.8 million in the third quarter of 2011. Total tax revenue recorded a slight decrease of Afl. 1.0 million to Afl. 202.5 million when compared to the third quarter of 2010. Total expenditures on a cash-adjusted basis (i.e., including the change in unmet financing requirements) fell by Afl. 43.3 million to Afl. 277.2 million. The total financing needs of the government equaled Afl. 104.6 million, comprising Afl. 59.9 million in financial deficit on a cash basis and Afl. 42.8 million in repayments on loans. The financing needs of the government were largely met by the issuance of Afl. 29.5 million in government bonds and the drawing down of government deposits by Afl. 67.6 million. On balance, government debt decreased to Afl. 2,552.8 million, while its ratio to the nominal GDP fell by 3.3 percentage points to an estimated 54.0 percent.

The balance of payments posted an Afl. 98.3 million deficit in the third quarter of 2011 (2010: Afl. 124.1 million deficit), resulting in a corresponding net outflow of funds to abroad. The deficit on the current account of the balance of payments tumbled by Afl. 245.0 million to Afl. 198.6 million. This lower deficit was mainly associated with a strong improvement in the goods account due to the resumption of exports by the oil sector. In contrast, the services account surplus dipped by Afl. 31.6 million to Afl. 279.3 million, predominantly because of substantially higher freight payments for crude oil imports by the refinery. Additionally, payments for government and construction services increased significantly, in part on account of tourism promotion. The marked improvement in the tourism receipts (+9.6 percent) could not fully compensate for this negative outcome. The capital and financial account registered an Afl. 92.5 million surplus in the third quarter of 2011 (2010: Afl. 327.0 million surplus), primarily related to considerable net inflows for direct investment (+Afl. 712.4 million), which were to a large extent offset by Afl. 605.6 million in net outflows of other investment (mainly trade credits). These results were heavily influenced by the resumption of oil refinery operations.



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Ohio teen charged over US school shooting

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The 17-year-old boy accused of the latest US school shooting in Ohio was charged Thursday with three counts of aggravated murder and two counts of attempted aggravated murder, a prosecutor said.

The charges against TJ Lane, who gave himself up and confessed to police after Monday's shooting spree at Chardon High School, were filed in a juvenile court, but prosecutors want to see the case transferred to an adult court, meaning the teen could face life without parole if convicted.

Lane allegedly fired 10 shots from a .22-caliber handgun on Monday on a group of teenagers in the high school cafeteria, sending terrified students running for their lives before fleeing the scene, chased by a teacher.

One victim died in hospital hours after the shooting. Two more succumbed to their wounds on Tuesday. A fourth gunshot victim remains in hospital while a fifth, the only girl shot, has been released back to her family.

Shocked residents of this close-knit Ohio community of 5,100 have struggled to comprehend how the tragedy could have happened.

No motive has been determined but Joyce told reporters earlier in the week that during his confession to police, Lane had said that he picked his victims at random.

"This was the effect of one lone gunman. He chose his victims at random. This is not about bullying. This is not about drugs," the prosecutor said Tuesday. "This is about someone who's not well."

The next court hearing has been scheduled for March 6.

Romney wins non-binding Wyoming vote

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Mitt Romney followed up key victories in Michigan and Arizona with another win in Wyoming's non-binding Republican presidential straw poll, according to state party officials.

Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, won 39 percent of the vote, followed by former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum, his main rival, with 32 percent, Texas Congressman Ron Paul with 21 percent and former House speaker Newt Gingrich with eight percent.

The state-by-state battle for the right to take on Democratic President Barack Obama in the November general election is heating up ahead of Super Tuesday, March 6, when 10 states will vote simultaneously.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Syrian forces overrun Baba Amr as rebels retreat

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syrian forces overran the Baba Amr district of powderkeg Homs on Thursday after rebels retreated, potentially marking a turning point in President Bashar al-Assad's bid to crush an increasingly armed uprising.

As rebel fighters pulled back, the opposition Syrian National Council (SNC) warned of a "massacre" in the rebel neighbourhood by Syrian forces, while aid agencies said they would urgently try to get there to deliver aid and evacuate the wounded.

The SNC, slamming "confusion" among the rebel ranks,

said in Paris it would provide leadership to an outgunned and fragmented force and control the flow of arms to fighters on the ground.

The rebels said they had pulled out "tactically" from Baba Amr after nearly two days of an all-out assault by the feared Fourth Armoured Division, led by a younger brother of President Bashar al-Assad, Maher, following 27 straight days of relentless shelling of their bastion.

The FSA was formed mid-2011 in response to a brutal crackdown by Assad's forces on anti-regime protesters, and now boasts at least 20,000

armed fighters, although the numbers are impossible to verify.

A Syrian security official said in Damascus that the army was in total command of the Homs neighbourhood, which had become the symbol of resistance to the regime.

The SNC urged the international community to act to prevent to protect residents, charging that the Fourth Armoured Brigade was conducting "barbaric operations against civilians."

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said in total, 39 people, including eight loyal soldiers and seven deserters, were killed in violence across Syria.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent were preparing to urgently reach the conflict zone, an ICRC spokesman said.



BAYONNE, France (AFP) - French President Nicolas Sarkozy took refuge in a bar Thursday after hundreds of Basque separatists and opposition Socialist party supporters mobbed him and some shouted insults and threw eggs. Riot police deployed outside the Bar du Palais in Bayonne, in the southwestern Basque region, where Sarkozy was on the campaign trail to seek re-election in a presidential vote in April and May. Some of the protesters jeered and booed and threw eggs at the bar while others shouted "Nicolas kampora!", which in the Basque language means "Nicolas get out!", and threw out tracts calling for more Basque autonomy. The president was booed from the moment he got out of his car in the centre of the city and was followed by a jeering crowd all the way to the bar, where he had been scheduled to meet with local voters. Sarkozy, who was due in Brussels later Thursday for a European Council meeting, condemned the incident and put the blame partly on the party of his frontrunning rival.

US Senate rejects birth control amendment

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Senate on Thursday rejected an attempt to exempt employers who cite moral objections to birth control measures from having to follow new health insurance rules proposed by President Barack Obama.

The debate over contraception has been terse in the run-up to the November 2012 election, but an amendment put forward by Republican Senator Roy Blunt was defeated 51 votes to 48 in the chamber.

Republicans had accused Obama of waging war on religious freedom with his plan but Senate majority leader Harry Reid, a Democratic representative for Nevada, said before the vote that the "extreme, ideological amendment," if passed, would have denied women access to crucial health care options.

"It would allow any employer or insurer to deny coverage for virtually any

treatment for virtually any reason," Reid said, citing mammograms, prenatal care, flu shots, diabetes screenings, and child vaccinations as being at risk.

"Although the amendment was designed to restrict women's access to contraception, it would also limit all Americans' access to essential health care," Reid added.

Blunt, however, denied that losing the vote meant the end of the furor.

"This issue will not go away unless the administration decides to take it away by giving people of faith these first amendment protections," he said.

Although the vote fell broadly along party lines, Republican Senator Olympia Snowe, a moderate, voted against the Blunt amendment and Susan Collins, another moderate Republican, said she backed it despite "its flaws."

In a concession three weeks ago, Obama said his government would no longer require religious organizations to offer contraception coverage on employee health plans and said his opponents had turned the issue into a "political football."

But he stuck by the principle that all women should have free access to such services, putting the onus on insurance firms to offer women working for religious employers such as Catholic hospitals free birth control coverage.

Officials argued that a woman who worked, for example, as a nurse at a Catholic hospital might not share their employer's religious opposition to contraception and should have the same rights as female workers elsewhere.

Republican House speaker John Boehner, however, said on Thursday that the rights of churches and other groups to protect their religious beliefs had been "violated," by Obama's proposals.

Romney wins non-binding Wyoming vote

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Mitt Romney followed up key victories in Michigan and Arizona with another win in Wyoming's non-binding Republican presidential straw poll, according to state party officials.

The poll was carried out alongside precinct caucuses held throughout February and concluded late Wednesday, but the state's delegates will be allocated at county conventions held next week, a party official told AFP.

Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, won 39 percent of the vote, followed by former Pennsylvania senator Rick Santorum, his main rival, with 32 percent, Texas

Congressman Ron Paul with 21 percent and former House speaker Newt Gingrich with eight percent.

Wyoming has the smallest population of any state, with less than 600,000 people, and will divide its 26 delegates among the candidates.

CNN projected that Romney would win 10 delegates, Santorum nine, Paul six and Gingrich one.

The state-by-state battle for the right to take on Democratic President Barack Obama in the November general election is heating up ahead of Super Tuesday, March 6, when 10 states will vote simultaneously.

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International News

US picks up from tornadoes, up to 12 dead



CHICAGO (AFP) - Residents of stricken towns across the US heartland picked through debris Thursday in the aftermath of a string of deadly tornadoes that left as many as 12 people dead.

The last known victim was trapped under the ruins of a collapsed house in DeKalb County in eastern Tennessee, and emergency workers were readying a recovery operation.

"They can see part of a body," Tennessee emergency management spokesman Jeremy Heidt told AFP, but without confirming the third death in the state from the tornadoes.

"There is a collapsed structure on the person and as soon as the site is confirmed as safe a recovery operation is due to begin," Heidt said, a day after horrendous weather wreaked destruction across the midwest.

Homes were smashed to bits, cars were tossed into lakes, trees were uprooted and shops were reduced to rubble in towns from Nebraska to Kentucky as the powerful system whipped up strong winds, hail and ominous funnel clouds.

The town of Harrisburg, Illinois was the hardest hit

after it was ripped apart by a deadly twister that stayed on the ground for miles, striking while most were still sleeping at around 4:30 am (1030 GMT) on Wednesday.

At least six people were killed and more than 100 injured in Harrisburg, a southern Illinois town with a population of 9,000.

The monster twister packed winds up to 170 miles (270 kilometers) per hour and damaged or destroyed up to 300 homes and 25 businesses, smashing a strip mall to bits and tearing a wall off the local hospital.

Harrisburg mayor Eric Gregg called Wednesday's destruction and loss of life "devastating" and vowed to provide care for those who were hurt and displaced.

President Barack Obama was briefed on the disaster on Thursday morning as he flew by helicopter to Andrews Air Force Base for a flight to New Hampshire, White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

The National Weather Service has received 30 reports of tornadoes in six states since the storm began Tuesday, battering Nebraska and Kansas before rolling eastward to Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky.

Severe thunderstorms pounded Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee on Wednesday before the bad weather pummeled toward the eastern seaboard.

Some 545 people were killed by tornadoes in 2011, which was the deadliest tornado season since 1936 and the third worst on record, according to the national weather service.

Google rolls out new privacy policy amid howls

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Google rolled out its new privacy policy Thursday allowing the firm to track users across various services to develop targeted advertising, despite sharp criticism from US and European consumer advocacy groups.

Google contends the move simplifies and unifies its policies across its various services such as Gmail, YouTube, Android mobile systems, social networks and Internet search.

"The new policy doesn't change any existing privacy settings or how any personal information is shared outside of Google," Google privacy chief Alma Whitten said on the Google Blog yesterday.

But critics including European privacy agencies and US consumer watchdogs argued the new policy, which offers no ability to opt out aside from refraining from signing into Google services, gives the Internet giant unprecedented ability to monitor its users.

"Calling this a 'privacy policy' is Orwellian doublespeak," said John Simpson of the US advocacy group Consumer Watchdog.

"Google isn't telling you about protecting your privacy. Google is telling you how they will gather information about you on all its services, combine it in new ways and use the fat new digital dossiers to sell more ads. They're telling you how they plan to spy on you. It's a spy policy."

A coalition of European and US consumer advocacy groups made a last-ditch appeal to Internet search and advertising giant Google on Wednesday to delay the changes.

In a joint letter to Google chief executive Larry Page, the Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialogue urged Google to

delay implementation of the changes, saying it would "combine data from all of your services... into a single profile without user consent and without any meaningful opportunity for users to opt-out."

The French consumer data protection agency CNIL warned this week that Google may be in violation of European privacy norms.

US Federal Trade Commission chairman Jon Leibowitz has said Google is forcing users to make a "brutal choice" -- ending its use of the service or complying with the new monitoring scheme.

The Electronic Privacy Information Center said it is appealing a judge's ruling that dismissed its legal challenge to Google's privacy policy. The group says Google is violating a settlement it reached with the FTC requiring the company to protect user data.

Technology analyst Shelly Palmer said Google had gone too far in the new policy.

Google announced in January it was revising its privacy policies and changing how it uses data from users of its services to provide more personalized search results and advertisements.



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Health & Living

Cancer drugs could halt Ebola virus



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Some cancer drugs used to treat patients with leukemia may also help stop the Ebola virus and give the body time to control the infection before it turns deadly, US researchers said.

The much-feared Ebola virus emerged in Africa in the 1970s and can incite a hemorrhagic fever which causes a person to bleed to death in up to 90 percent of cases.

While rare, the Ebola virus is considered a potential weapon for bioterrorists because it is so highly contagious, so lethal and has no standard treatment.

But a pair of well-known drugs that have been used to treat leukemia -- known as nilotinib and imatinib -- appear to have some success in stopping the virus from replicating in human cells.

Lead researcher Mayra Garcia of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and colleagues reported their finding in Wednesday's edition of the journal Science Translational Medicine.

By experimenting with human embryonic kidney cells in a lab, they found that a protein called c-Abl1 tyrosine kinase was a key regulator in whether the Ebola virus could replicate or not.

The leukemia drugs work by stopping that protein's activity. In turn, a viral protein called VP40 stopped the release of viral particles from the infected cells, a process known as filovirus budding.

"Drugs that target filovirus budding would be expected to reduce the spread of infection, giving the immune system time to control the infection," the study authors wrote.

"Our results suggest that short-term administration of nilotinib or imatinib may be useful in treating Ebola virus infections."

Imatinib, which is marketed as Gleevec and Glivec, is used to treat chronic myelogenous leukemia in humans, a disease which is caused by dysregulation of c-Abl enzyme.

Nilotinib, also known as Tassigna, has been used in chronic myelogenous leukemia patients who are resistant to imatinib.

Both "have reasonable safety profiles, although some cardiac toxicity has been reported with long-term administration in a small number of patients," the study added.

According to the UN's World Health Organization (WHO), about 1,850 cases of Ebola, with some 1,200 deaths, have occurred since 1976.

The virus has a natural reservoir in several species of African fruit bat. Gorillas and other non-human primates are also susceptible to the disease.

Fried food raises stroke risk in older women

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Older women who eat high amounts of the kind of fat found in fried foods and baked goods face a greater risk of stroke than women who eat lower fat diets, a US study suggested.

However, aspirin use could cut those risks, said the researchers from University of North Carolina whose findings are published in the Annals of Neurology.

The data came from the largest study to date of postmenopausal women and their eating habits, and included 87,025 women between the ages 50 and 79 who were generally in good health at the

time of enrollment.

Women who reported eating diets high in trans-fatty acids, or 6.1 grams a day, showed a 39 percent greater incidence of stroke due to a blocked artery than women who ate 2.2 grams per day of such fats.

The researchers did not find any significant links between stroke risk and how much total fat the women consumed, or their level of dietary cholesterol.

But aspirin use was shown to slim down the link between trans fat intake and stroke, which affects nearly 800,000 people in the United States per year and is the fourth leading

cause of US death.

Trans fat is on the decline in the United States due to a public health and legislation campaign which has banned its use in many fast food restaurants and in food preparation.

But it hasn't disappeared altogether.

"Trans fats are rare in living nature, but can commonly occur in foods as a result of food processing called partial hydrogenation when a liquid vegetable oil is turned into a solid fat," said Nancy Copperman, director of public health initiatives at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System in New York.

Copperman, who was not involved in the study, added that the behaviors of women who ate lots of trans fat were also unhealthy, including decreased physical activity, smoking, and higher levels of diabetes.

"Encouraging and supporting women consume a balanced diet avoiding trans fat and including healthy oils and daily physical activity can be a major step in preventing stroke and other lifestyle related diseases," she said.



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Sleep gets better with age: US study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Contrary to popular belief, older people do not suffer as many sleeping problems as the young and a good night's rest may actually get easier with age, said a US study released on Thursday.

Based on a telephone survey with more than 150,000 American adults, people in their 80s had the fewest complaints about their sleeping patterns, while those in middle age, particularly women, had the most.

"This flies in the face of popular belief," said Michael Grandner, lead author of the study which appears in the journal Sleep. "These results force us to re-think what we know about sleep in older people -- men and women."

The randomized survey was based on self-reported data, and did not measure people's actual sleep patterns.

More than 70 million people in the United States have some kind of sleep disorder, according to the American Academy

of Sleep Medicine.

However Grandner, research associate at the Center for Sleep and Circadian Neurobiology at the Perlman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, said perceptions are important.

"Even if sleep among older Americans is actually worse than in younger adults, feelings about it still improve with age," said Grandner.

"Once you factor out things like illness and depression, older people should be reporting better sleep. If they're not, they need to talk to their doctor. They shouldn't just ignore it."



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Apple to hold March 7 event, new iPad expected



(AFP) - Apple sent out invitations Tuesday to a March 7 press event expected to be the unveiling of the next generation of the hot-selling iPad tablet computer.

The invitations featured a picture of an iPad and the

words: "We have something you really have to see. And touch."

The event is to be held at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, where Apple has unveiled numerous products over the years.

Dow Jones-owned technology blog All Things Digital reported earlier this month that the "iPad 3" will be shaped like the current model, but run on a faster computer chip and have improved graphics.

Apple has sold more than 55 million iPads since launching the device in April 2010.

Sci-Tech

Microsoft launches 'reimagined' Windows



BARCELONA (AFP) - IT giant Microsoft delivered its answer to Google and Apple, through a new-generation Windows operating system designed to run seamlessly on computers and portable tablet devices.

The operating system is Microsoft's riposte to Google's Android platform and Apple, which has dominated the tablet market it ignited with the release of the iPad.

Like its two competitors, Microsoft is adopting the "app" style in its reinvented operating system.

Unlike previous generations of Windows, which has a taskbar pulling up a list of software, the latest version has a selection of applications or "apps" tiled on the start page.

For devices with touchscreens, apps are selected or moved around in the same

way as on a smartphone -- by hand, swiping to switch between pages or screens, pinching to enlarge or shrink and tapping to select.

For those without touchscreens, the same could be done using the drag and drop functions, or clicks of a mouse.

For those who have several devices, they will be connected through a "cloud", a resource that pools a user's data online rather than on a user's computer disc.

It enabled what is seen on the screen of a tablet device to be replicated on a regular computer if the user signs in with a Windows ID.

Microsoft also announced the test opening of its Windows Store, where users can buy apps online.

Although it is a heavy-weight in the computer market, Microsoft has lagged behind in getting a share of the smartphone and tablet pie.

Windows has teamed up with Finnish giant Nokia to make smartphones to try to win back a share.

On Monday, Nokia announced that Windows phones have now been made compatible with Chinese mobile oper-

ating networks, allowing it to bring its smartphones to that massive market.

It could also challenge the dominance of Blackberry in the corporate market, as companies may opt to go with Windows as their computers are already running on that operating system.

"We have a wild card on this subject because we are very active in enterprises' IT systems" and companies "realise that it would provide better integration and a better experience," Microsoft's mobility division director Laurent Schloesser told AFP.

"The enterprise market will take up Windows Phone," he added.

Gartner research analyst Roberta Cozza said that it remained unclear how Windows 8 would be integrated with the Windows phone.

"But it will definitely make the user interface (UI) that we have seen today more familiar with consumers.

The Windows 8 preview is available for download at preview.windows.com.

During the preview period, apps on the Windows Store will be available to users to test for free.

Ecuador may have found last Inca emperor's tomb



Funerary stones can be seen at a site in Ecuador that could be Atahualpa's resting place: the last Inca emperor's tomb.

SIGCHOS (AFP) - It has been sought for centuries but remained a mystery, still out of reach. Now an expert has pinpointed a site that could be Atahualpa's resting place: the last Inca emperor's tomb.

"This is an absolutely important find for the history of Ecuador's archeology and for the (Andean) region," said Patrimony Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa, speaking of the ruins found by Ecuadorian historian Tamara Estupinan.

The Inca empire, in the 1400s and early 1500s, spanned much of South Amer-

ica's Andean region, over 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers), from modern-day Bolivia and Peru to Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Colombia. It included dozens of ethnic groups with different languages, cities, temples, farming terraces and fortresses.

Atahualpa was the last of his dynasty. During the Spanish conquest he was taken captive in what is now Cajamarca, Peru.

He had been pressed to convert to Christianity and then the Spanish executed him by strangulation, then after his

death in 1533, the empire began to fall apart.

This year Ecuador's state Cultural Patrimony Institute will start work on a promising archeological site, and Estupinan will be front and center to raise the curtain on a massive complex sprawling over a ridge at 1,020 meters.

It was back in June 2010 that Estupinan, now a researcher with the French Institute for Andean Studies (IFEA), found what she describes as an "Inca archeological site" high on the Andes' eastern flank amid plunging canyons.

But in the area called Sigchos, about 45 miles south of Quito, up on a hill dotted with brush, there is more -- much more: she found a complex of walls, aqueducts and stonework that lie inside the Machay rural retreat. Machay means burial in the Quechua language.

Archeologist Tamara Bray, of Wayne State University in Michigan, and a colleague of Estupinan, confirmed that the site boasts "an Inca edifice that is phenomenally well preserved and quite important sci-

entifically."

Inside the facility, a walled walkway starts at the Machay River and one can see the shape of an "ushno", essentially stairs that form a pyramid believed to be the (capac's) emperor's throne. Meanwhile a tiny cut channel of water would spout out a small waterfall nicknamed "the Inca's bath".

The director at the Lima-based IFEA, Georges Lomne, said the find appears to confirm that the Incas were active and present in a lowland area well outside what their best-known area of operations were: Andean highlands.

Bray also stressed that "very few such Inca sites have

been found in this type of tropical lowland. I think that the Incas used it as a sort of getaway."

Estupinan has some more specific ideas.

She believes Malqui-Machay is Atahualpa's final resting place. The tomb of the last capac (emperor) of Tahuantinsuyo, the trans-Andean empire.

While many experts have other theories, Estupinan believes that when Atahualpa was killed his remains could have been brought by his most loyal man, Ruminahui, to Sigchos for burial, to a place where Ruminahui based his fight for survival against the European intruders.

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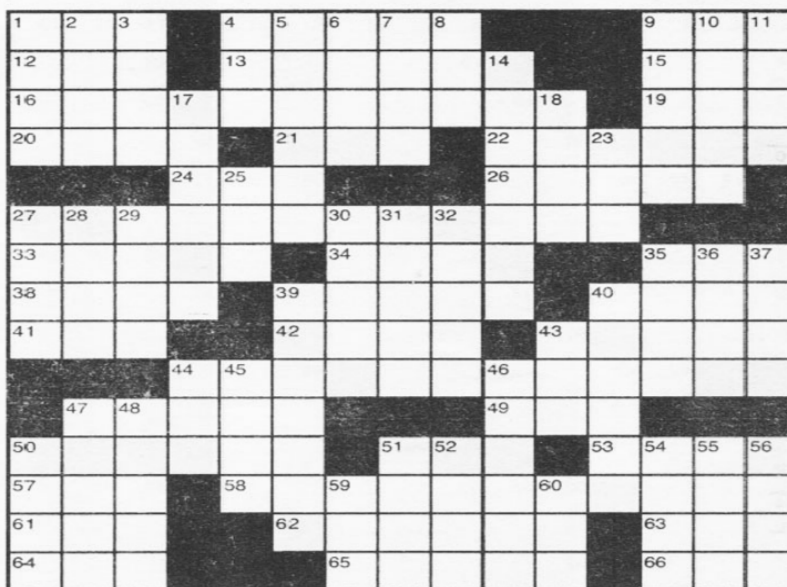
NOT SO HOT

ACROSS

1. "Fight of the Century" loser
4. "___" man with forty wives
9. Play division
12. Like Jonah's luck
13. Missing part
15. Schwarzenegger's native tongue; abbr.
16. Start a conversation
19. Shakespearean confusion
20. Capitalist Smith
21. Fros' partners
22. Tie
24. Practice
26. Dorothy, in Oz
27. Paul Newman role
33. "Seascape" playwright
34. At home ___ the road...
35. Part of R&R, for short
38. Oft-pickled vegetable
39. Brown ermine
40. Severe cut
41. Salty sauce
42. Gnat that won't scat
43. "A votre ___!"
44. Snub
47. Stage offering
49. Keanu, in "The Matrix"
50. Free
51. Discoverer's shout
53. He beat Maris's record in '98
57. Do away with
58. Kasdan's 1983 ensemble film
61. Mickey's first wife
62. "Old ___"
63. Lon of

DOWN

1. Father, in Hebrew
2. Shortening, of a kind
3. Light bulb, in a comic strip
4. Class
5. Country star
6. Audio feedback
7. Election day; abbr.
8. Singer DiFranco
9. Plant with sword-shaped leaves
10. Deck wood
11. Move at a brisk pace
14. Reconstruc-tion
17. Wizard's pendant
18. Estrada of "CHiPs"
23. Porter or stout
25. "___-Devil" (Streep-Barr film)
27. Members of an airport queue
28. Butter substitute
29. Word omitted from many modern vows
30. Jotted down
31. Metal refuse
32. Averse
35. South African monetary unit
36. Toward the rising sun, in Cancun
37. Tattooed tabloid subject
39. Ostentatious
40. Footwear for fens
43. Author Miller
44. Tom or bob follower
45. Skip
46. War catapult
47. Motivation
48. Control tower fixture
50. 15,432 grains
51. Skillful
52. To the ___ (entirely)
54. Response to a piggish remark
55. Type of gin
56. Supporter
59. Always, to Keats
60. ___-Magnon



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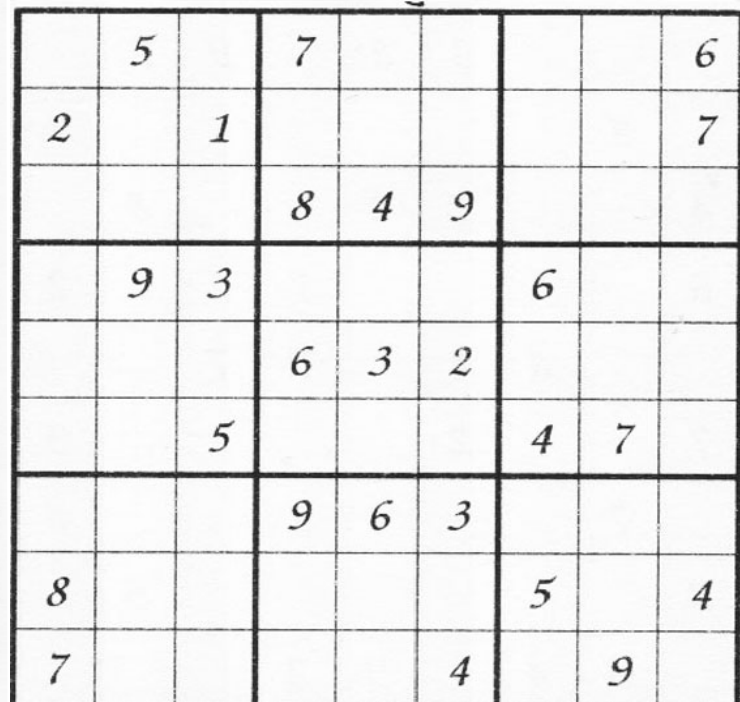
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4	9	5	1	2	6	8	3	7
1	8	7	9	6	3	2	5	4
5	1	4	8	6	1	5	2	9
6	5	1	2	9	8	4	7	3
8	2	9	5	1	4	7	6	3
3	1	2	6	7	8	4	9	5
1	7	6	9	5	1	8	2	4
9	5	8	1	2	4	7	3	6

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In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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1 br wk 11 room #2507 Pool/Ocean view \$11,000

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Britain	GBP	2.770	2.820	2.880
Switzerland	CHF	1.9856	1.9928	2.0008
Netherlands	EUR	2.3726	2.3943	2.4183
Sweden	SEK	0.2620	0.2692	0.2772
Denmark	DKK	0.3122	0.3196	0.3276
Norway	NOK	0.3122	0.3194	0.3274
Japan	JPY	219.85	221.86	224.09
(per 10,000)				

Tables turned: Dutch under EU pressure to cut budget

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The tables turned on the Netherlands on Thursday as the nation, first in line to scold deficit sinners such as Greece, was told by EU authorities to clean up its own financial situation.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who has led a hardline movement to bring Athens to implement harsh savings in exchange for a financial bailout, vowed to reduce his country's own budget shortfall as he arrived in Brussels for a two-day European Union summit.

"The fact that I am attached to fiscal discipline comes from the fact that this is very important to me," Rutte told reporters.

The Netherlands has teamed up with Germany and Finland, who along with Luxembourg form an exclusive club of triple-A rated eurozone nations, to put pressure on other nations to keep their budgets under control.

But Dutch officials took the finger-wagging to another level, raising the possibility of letting Athens default and leave the eurozone unless it toed the line. Eurozone governments finally agreed to a new Greek rescue package

worth 237-billion-euro (\$310 billion) last week.

But the Dutch government was put in an embarrassing spot on Thursday as it admitted that the "provisional" public deficit for 2012 would rise from the previously expected 4.1 percent of gross domestic product to 4.5 percent.

The country's central planning bureau said the deficit would fall back to 4.1 percent in 2014 and 3.3 percent in 2015 unless there was a change in government strategy.

This means the centre-right prime minister would fail to fulfill his pledge to bring the country's deficit back under the EU limit of 3.0 percent next year.

"We think that the Netherlands is one country that has been very vocal when supporting the reinforcement of our fiscal surveillance rules," said European Commission economy spokesman Amadeu Altafaj.

"So it's absolutely normal to believe that the Netherlands will apply this same approach to its own fiscal policies," he told a news conference.

"We trust that the Netherlands will do the necessary to comply," said the spokesman for EU economic affairs commissioner Olli Rehn.

Rutte declared that his government would undertake budget cuts because it was important to do so, "not because Rehn wants it."

The Netherlands faces tougher economic conditions, with the entire 17-nation eurozone expected to slip into recession this year.

Finance

Briefs...

Oil prices gain on Iran tensions, positive data

LONDON (AFP) - Oil prices rose Thursday on lingering tensions over major crude exporter Iran and in the wake of positive Chinese and US economic data, traders said.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in April, gained 45 cents to \$107.52 a barrel.

Brent North Sea crude for April jumped \$1.47 to \$124.13.

Oil rose Wednesday, following two days of losses, amid more sabre-rattling from Washington over Iran's suspected nuclear programme.

Analysts said prices also found support from positive economic data from China and the United States -- the world's two biggest energy-consuming countries.

US auto sales accelerate despite fuel price jump

CHICAGO (AFP) - US auto sales continued to accelerate in February despite an unnerving jump in fuel prices as an improving overall economic outlook and aging vehicles drew consumers into showrooms, automakers said Thursday.

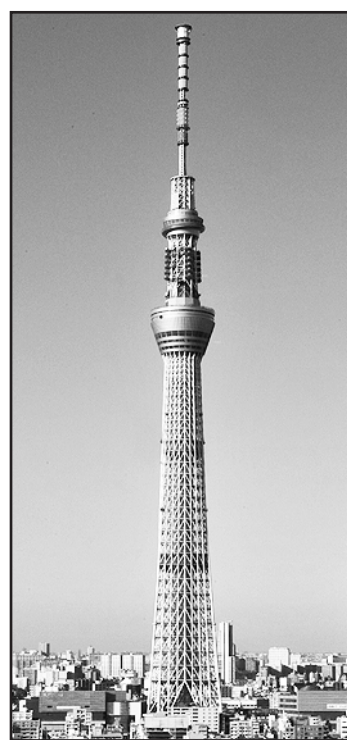
"For much of 2011, the auto industry was a bright spot for the overall economy

and we think that will likely continue to be the case," Don Johnson, head of US sales at General Motors, said in a conference call.

"Based on what we see in

terms of pent up demand and the strength of the economy, we do not believe that short-term fluctuations in fuel prices will curtail industry growth this year."

Japan finishes world's tallest communications tower



TOKYO (AFP) - Construction of the Tokyo Sky Tree, the world's tallest communications tower and second-highest building, finished this week, two months late because of the

quake and tsunami that struck Japan last March.

Tourist bosses in the country hope the 634-metre (2080-foot) tower will be a big draw for foreign visitors, whose numbers have plummeted in the aftermath of the disaster and the nuclear crisis it sparked.

Construction of the tower, near the popular Asakusa traditional district on Tokyo's eastern side, began in July 2008.

It is the world's second-tallest manmade structure, beaten only by the 828-metre Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

Some 580,000 workers were engaged in the construction, which cost 65 billion yen (\$806 million) for the tower alone, the spokeswoman said.

It hosts two observation decks -- at 350 metres and 450 metres above ground -- as well as restaurants and office space and sits at a former freight shunting yard along the Sumida river.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

FETA	SASS	AMPLE			
AVER	ARTE	CORER			
RORI	SKIPPING				
MENSCH	RTA	AMOS			
TAAS	LALA				
HOPOMYTHUMB	FIT				
ABET	SEER	ADANO			
HENLE	WIG	DECAY			
ASTER	EDIE	NILE			
SEA	SPRINGFIELD				
THEA	GONG				
ALEE	PAM	ISRAEL			
BOUNDARIES	ALTO				
BOCCCE	ALIT	TOOL			
ASHES	LENS	ETNA			



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Marine Foundation continues to explore methods to control Lionfish



Gyseth Arends-Jansen together with Castro Perez, Vice President/Secretary of the Aruba Marine Park Foundation.



We recall last year's diligent efforts by Aruba Marine Park and the Department of Fisheries of Santa Rosa along with different organizations, how they labored to control the Lionfish population in our waters around Aruba.

We vividly remember the very successful Lionfish Derby. That was a first time experience for Aruba. Lionfish were reported in our waters during 2009 for the first time. Many divers and others participated and more than 2000 Lionfish were captured and eliminated.

Last year the Aruba Marine Park Foundation organized the Lionfish Derby in March 2011, which was followed by the Lionfish Control Championship that ran from June to December 2011. The organization is intent on continuing to motivate the various diver operators, divers known as the "Lionfish hunters or slayers," to continue eliminating and controlling the Lionfish population in our waters.

The Fisheries section of the Aruba Marine Park Foundation expects to continue getting the cooperation from the different stakeholders to carry on their efforts of controlling this very invasive species.

The educational sector of our local community has shown much interest in our endeavor to eliminate Lionfish. Various educational institutions have focused in on the problem we face with Lionfish. Students of IPA, Colegio Arubano and other schools have prepared Lionfish projects or of environmental problems which are threatening our coral reefs around the island.

IPA student Mrs. Gyseth Arends-Jansen has spent 350



hours working on a Lionfish project. With the help and co-operation of the Fisheries section and the Aruba Marine Park Foundation, Mrs. Arends-Jansen was able to complete the Lionfish project. The Lionfish project has become a part of an IPA assignment. It is now the social project that all IPA students are required to fulfill for their study program.

Mrs. Gyseth Arends-Jansen is an open water diver since 7 years ago. She has participated as "Lionfish hunter" during the Lionfish Derby held in June 2011. Because of her diving expertise she became interested in the Lionfish project.

Gyseth Arends-Jansen has produced a "teachers toolkit" replete with didactic material to teach 5th and 6th grades of our primary schools. Students will learn everything they need to know about Lionfish. Last week they held an exposition of all the material needed to teach classes in this matter. Everyone was simply amazed and impressed with the material produced.

The Foundation sincerely hopes that the teaching material would be used on a regular basis as part of lessons on nature. Our children need to

be well versed in what is happening in our waters; they need to have access to all the information regarding Lionfish.



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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,



high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too



Gouda Burger 2

first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers—the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to

be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way—with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy fried onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner — daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit

SPORTS

NBA: Obama knew about Lin 'way back when'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama said Thursday that he had known about NBA star Jeremy Lin's talent long before the Asian-American's "Linsanity" phenomenon swept the sport.

"I knew about Jeremy before you did, or everybody else did, because Arne Duncan, my secretary of education, was captain of the Harvard team," Obama told noted US sportswriter Bill Simmons in a podcast.

"And so way back when,

Arne and I were playing and he said, 'I'm telling you, we've got this terrific guard named Jeremy Lin at Harvard.'

"And then one of my best friends, his son is a freshman at Harvard, and so when he went for a recruiting trip he saw Lin in action. So I've been on the Jeremy Lin bandwagon for a while," said the president, who is a Harvard Law School graduate.

Lin, the New York Knicks' point guard, has had a meteoric rise in the past month

from undrafted and twice-discarded benchwarmer to high points scoring stardom in Madison Square Garden, the world's biggest basketball stage.

He is the first US-born player in the NBA of Taiwanese and Chinese heritage and he has already developed a devoted following among many Asian-Americans and in China, Taiwan, the Philippines and other countries.

Traffic to the NYKnicks.com website surged as basketball fans from around the world search for Lin news and video highlights.

"He seems like a wonderful young man. And, look, it elevates this great sport all around the world," said Obama, a Chicago Bulls fan, alluding to the labor dispute that led to the delay of the NBA season opening.

"If you've got billionaires on one side and millionaires on another, you guys can figure out how to divide some money up. And ultimately they did. And it was the right thing to do," said the president.

"And what's been encouraging is to see how fast the sport has bounced back."

NBA: Masked Bryant lifts**continued from page 15**

Bryant was fouled by Dwyane Wade in the Sunday's all-star game. His nose was bloodied after Wade reached inside and slapped him in the face and shoulder in the third quarter.

"I have known Wade for years," Bryant said. "He didn't mean to do it. It is just something that happened. It is what it is. We have been close friends a long time."

Bryant passed Michael Jordan as the all-time leading scorer in all-star games after netting 27 points in the West's 152-149 victory over Wade's Team East. And he stayed in the game right up to the final buzzer even though he was not feeling well.

"Finishing the all-star game with a concussion was pretty gnarly," Bryant said. "I was seeing a little double and I didn't know if it was a concussion or not because I have never had one before. I just knew things were off a bit."

Pau Gasol finished with 15 points and Andrew Bynum had 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Lakers who opened a

**Djokovic, Federer, Murray****continued from page 16**

Television replays indicated however that the "out" call came after Berdych had struck his return, suggesting Lahyani's decision was the right one.

Murray went on to close the match out in that game, though it required six more rallies and seven match points altogether before he did so.

Later Berdych said he had been "shocked" by Lahyani's decision, adding: "If we look at all the rule books we going to see that if it's not a clear ace there is a repeat of point actually."

Murray commented: "It's a bad rule, and one I have a big problem with. It comes down to kind of how the umpire sees it."

The other semi-final is between Grand Slam record-

holder Federer and del Potro, the 2009 US Open finalist from Argentina whose victory against Tsonga was his second in five days.

Against Youzhny, Federer established breaks of serve early in both sets, and each time consolidated the advantage right through.

It suggested that the extra competition Federer has had this year - having included Rotterdam and the Davis Cup in his schedule - has made him satisfyingly match tight from the start of this week.

But Federer may feel hardly any more secure at avoiding another meeting with Tsonga by getting del Potro instead.

The Argentine's last victory over a top five player was against him.

game."

The Timberwolves were missing all-star forward Kevin Love who suffered injured ribs in Tuesday's 109-97 win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Minnesota finish off a four-game road trip with a game in Phoenix Thursday and in Portland on Saturday. They are in the middle of playing 11 of 15 contests on the road.

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Athletics: Drug cheat Rodgers banned, but gets Olympics hope



COLORADO SPRING (AFP) - American sprinter Michael Rodgers was slapped with a nine-month ban after failing a drug test at a track meet last year in Italy, the US Anti-Doping Agency announced Thursday.

The 2009 US champion in the 100 metres tested positive for the banned stimulant methylhexanamine which has been at the centre of numerous failed tests and doping bans over the past few years.

American anti-doping officials made Rodgers' suspension retroactive to last July when he failed the test meaning he will be allowed to resume competition in about 10 weeks.

That also makes him eligible for the US Olympic trials and a spot on the American

team at the 2012 London Olympics.

US doping officials said Rodgers first lied to the investigative panel then switched his story and admitted that he took a banned substance.

"Rodgers originally requested a hearing in front of independent American Arbitration Association (AAA) panel, at which he provided inaccurate and misleading testimony," US Anti-Doping Agency said in a news release.

"However, before the false testimony was acted upon by the arbitration panel, Rodgers came forward, acknowledged the truth to the US Anti-Doping Agency."

Rodgers originally claimed he drank vodka with an energy drink at a club two days before a meeting in Lignano, Italy which caused the positive test.

He later changed his story and said he took a supplement called Jack3d which caused the positive test.

Rodgers also had to pay for the cost of the arbitration hearing but USADA did not give details on the amount.

Methylhexanamine has been implicated in several positive tests over the past few years involving athletes, including Nigerian

NBA: Masked Bryant lifts Lakers over 'Wolves



Wesley Johnson #4 of the Minnesota Timberwolves keeps the ball away from Kobe Bryant

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Wearing a mask to protect a broken nose, 14-time all-star Kobe Bryant finished with 31 points and eight assists as the Los Angeles Lakers routed

Minnesota 104-85 on Wednesday.

Bryant, the NBA's leading scorer, donned the clear plastic mask after suffering a broken nose and concussion in the

61st NBA all-star Game on Sunday.

"What I have learned about concussions over the last few days is they heal on their own time," Bryant said. "There is no timetable for it. I just have to stay positive, tell myself 'when I wake up tomorrow I am not going to have headaches.'"

Bryant shot 11-of-23 from the field in 33 minutes of playing time Wednesday and said the mask took some getting used to but he never considered going without it.

"My nose was too tender. When my nose stops being so sensitive I will take it off," he

said. "It got hot. I felt like I had a sauna on my face. Like I was drinking my own sweat."

Bryant, who has five NBA championship rings, was cleared to play against the Timberwolves just prior to tip off Wednesday after undergoing a battery of tests conducted by a neurologist earlier in the day.

Bryant said he is not experiencing migraines and most of the pain is in his neck area.

"I understand the severity of the situation. You have to go through those steps," Bryant said of the mandatory tests for concussion symptoms.

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Tennis: Djokovic, Federer, Murray into Dubai semi-finals



Roger Federer

DUBAI (AFP) - Novak Djokovic needed a piece of luck against close friend Janko Tipsarevic on Thursday before carrying his bid for a record fourth successive Dubai Open title into a semi-final clash with Andy Murray.

The triple Grand Slam titleholder beat the seventh-seeded Tipsarevic 6-1, 7-6 (8/6) but only escaped from set point down at 5-6 in the tie-breaker thanks to a double fault from his fellow Davis Cup star from Serbia.

It raised hopes that Djokovic will on Friday witness another classic encounter with Murray, similar to their sensational five-hour Australian Open semi-final.

Murray reached the semi-finals with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Tomas Berdych.

Friday's other semi-final will see four-time Dubai champion Roger Federer, whose 6-3, 6-4 win over Mikhail Youzhny was his 12th over the Russian, against in-form Juan Martin del Potro.

The big Argentine defeated French fourth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (7/1), 6-2.

For a while Djokovic

seemed likely to win comfortably against Tipsarevic, with whom he had "practised a million times."

He hit with great power off the ground, moved superbly, and won the first set in only 27 minutes.

But he ran into difficulty after failing to convert break points at 30-40 in the fifth and seventh games of the second sets.

Tipsarevic struck the ball more boldly, won many of the longer rallies with tenacious base-lining, and got the support of the crowd for his fight-back.

Djokovic, meanwhile, appeared to grow tense, and when he went 0-3 and 1-4 down in the tie-break a deciding set looked likely.

But after Tipsarevic's crucial double fault made it 6-6, Djokovic capitalised with a backhand slice to earn a second successive point against serve, and followed it with the winning combination of a good first serve and an unstoppable forehand follow-up.

Asked about playing Murray again, Djokovic said: "We are the same age and the first time we played each other was at the age of 11. So

hopefully we will play another great match."

Murray progressed with a straight sets win over Berdych, the fierce-hitting fifth-seeded Czech against whom he had lost the previous three times.

The match ended in controversy as Berdych protested to Swedish umpire Mohamed Lahyani about a Hawkeye decision when he had a point to break back to six games all.

Murray's appeal to the computer replay showed that the line judge's call of fault to have been wrong and that his unreturned serve had in fact landed in.

When the Scot was duly awarded that point, Berdych argued that the rally should be replayed, claiming the line judge's call had interfered with his return of serve.

continues on page 14

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NBA: Lin's Knicks rally to beat Cavaliers



Jeremy Lin #17 of the New York Knicks drives against Alonzo Gee #33 of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

NEW YORK (AFP) - Jeremy Lin's New York Knicks kicked off the second half of their season in winning style Wednesday, by rallying from a 12 point halftime deficit to rout the Cleveland Cavaliers 120-103.

Lin finished with 19 points, 13 assists and five rebounds for the Knicks who scored 71 points in the second half at Madison Square Garden arena.

Guard Lin also had just one turnover Wednesday, the fewest he has had in a start this season.

"It is unbelievable what he is doing," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said of Lin.

D'Antoni said the coaching staff must take some of the blame for the high number of

turnovers Lin had been recording in some of the games this season.

"One turnover tonight. Once we get other people to help him out he is not going to have eight turnovers. He has had one bad game so this is unbelievable," D'Antoni said.

Carmelo Anthony, who recently returned from injury, scored 22 points and forward Steve Novak came off the bench to score 17 points, including five three pointers, for the Knicks who had six players finish in double figures.

"It was a great comeback," said Anthony, who has struggled through an injury-plagued season. "In the first half we still had our all-star break legs, but in the second half we made

some adjustments and went after it."

Anthony played his best game alongside Lin, who carried the Knicks on his back with their \$18 million dollar a year star forward out of the lineup.

"We need Jeremy. He is a big piece of our team," Anthony said Wednesday.

It was the first regular season game for Lin since he took part in his maiden all-star game weekend.

Lin and the Knicks struggled mightily going into the all-star break in a one-sided loss to the Miami Heat, falling 102-88 last Thursday. Lin shot just one-of-11 against the Heat but looked to have more energy against the Cavaliers.

"I am happy it wasn't eight turnovers like Miami," said Lin. "I am happy with just one turnover. If I can keep it to three or less then I am pleased."

Lin has been the NBA's biggest story this season, coming off the Knicks bench after being cut by two other clubs to put in the best performance of any NBA player in his first 10 starts since 1976.

Lin, whose parents are from Taiwan, became a phenomenon because of his scoring, averaging over 20 points a game, his passing skills and his clutch shooting ability, including a last-second game winner at Toronto.

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